

Crime Prevention for Rural Environments:
A Systematic Approach

by

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This paper presents an overview of the crime prevention program philosophy of the National Rural Crime Prevention Center. In brief, the Center's philosophy represents an attempt to closely align the traditionally separate functions of research and program development.

This paper is organized into three sections. First it will briefly discuss the extent and impact of the crime problem to rural farm and non-farm residents. Second, it will outline, the major changes in rural society which have contributed to the growth in rural crime. Finally, it will discuss the content of educational aids for crime prevention, and the types of training programs for crime prevention practitioners which the Center is currently developing.

Rural Crime: Its Extent and Impact

There are many stereotypical pictures about the way of life found in the rural sector of American society. Prominent among these is the belief that rural areas are virtually "crime free." However, recent evidence indicates that crime has become an acute problem in many rural areas.

One indicator of the growing rural crime problem comes from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports, which has been the major source of crime data in the United States since 1930. Figure 1 shows the trend in the index of crime for rural areas of the United States since 1959. In an 19 year period, from 1959 to 1978, the FBI Index of Crime increased over 400 percent for rural America. Perhaps an even more "telling" piece of evidence comes from the fact that the rural crime rate in 1978 is near the 1967 crime rate in our metropolitan areas (Figure 1). The "alarming" crime rate of the middle sixties within urban America was a

major impetus for the creation of The National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration under the "Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968" (U.S. Dept. of Justice, 1974: 111). Such a comparison demonstrates the serious magnitude of the present rate of crime in rural areas.

Per 100,000 Persons

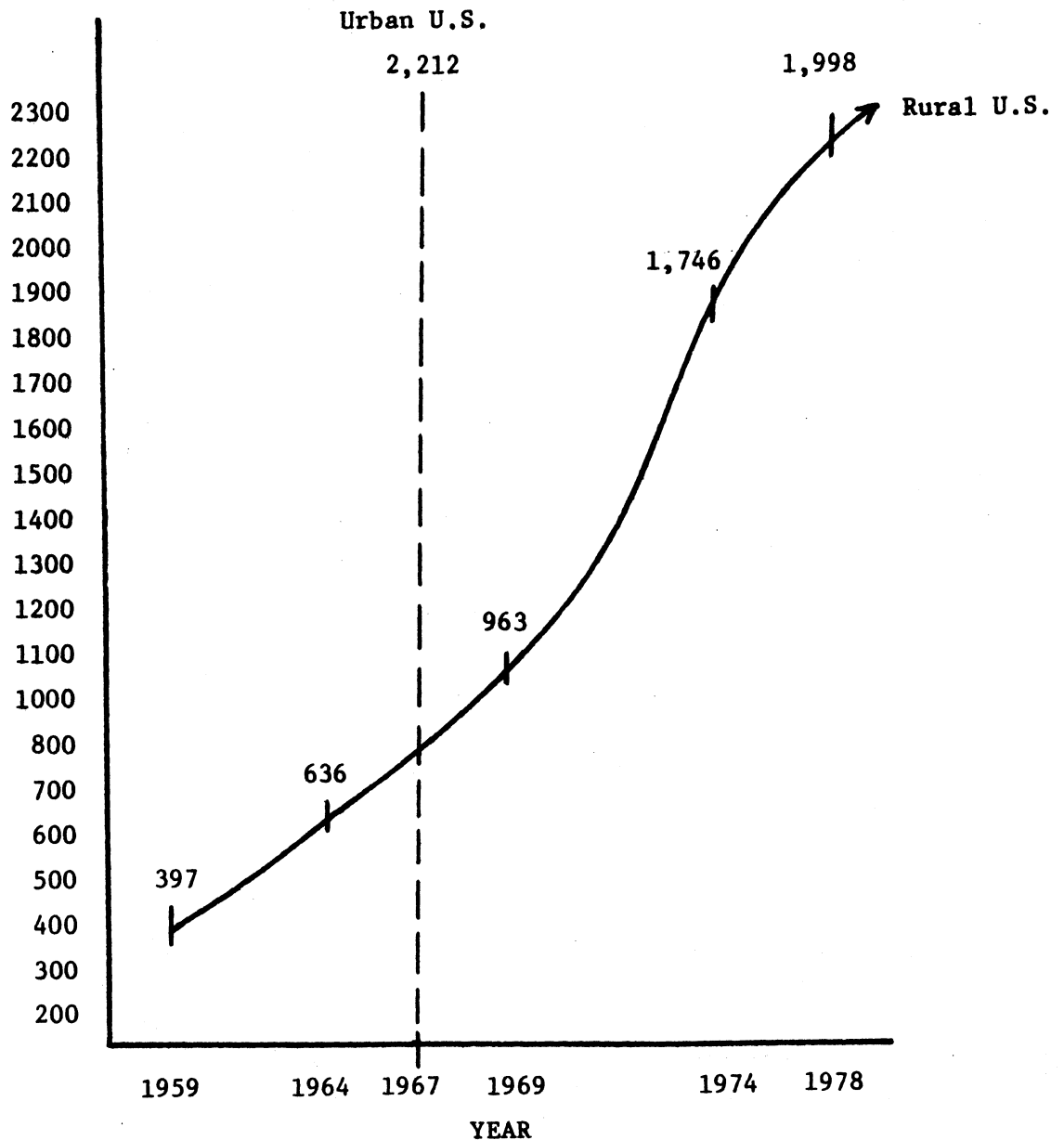


FIGURE 1: THE U.S. RURAL CRIME INDEX (UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS, 1959-1978).

A second indicator comes from several recently completed criminal victimization studies of selected rural areas. Table 1 compares the "victimization" rates obtained from these studies with the latest National Crime Survey information on victimization for persons and households within metropolitan areas of one million or more persons. The rate of illegal forcible entry (burglary) is higher in two of the rural study areas than the rate for the metropolitan sector. In addition, the household larceny and personal theft rates are comparable in magnitude to the metropolitan rates.

Although statistics on the extent of vandalism among urban households is not available, Table 1 shows that a substantial proportion of rural households are victimized by vandalism annually. The rural Ohio study found over one vandalism incident for every five households.

The basic point about rural crime is that it is disproportionately property-oriented. This is further illustrated in Table 2 where, overtime, violent crime in rural areas represents a decreasing share of the total crime known to rural law enforcement.

Property crime is sometimes erroneously considered "petty" or "less serious" than crimes against the person (i.e., violent crime). However, on a collective basis, property crime far outstrips the seriousness of violent crime. For instance, a recent study of farm retailers (i.e., roadside farm markets and U-Pick operations) found that two out of every three annually experienced some type of property crime (Phillips and Donnermeyer, 1980). Within a single twelve month period, 45 percent of the farm retailers were victimized by some form of vandalism, over half of whom experienced two or more acts of malicious destruction (average cost per incident equalled \$83). Nearly one in four experienced a burglary (average cost = \$191), one in five were aware of employee theft (average

TABLE 1: ANNUAL VICTIMIZATION RATES FOR HOUSEHOLDS AND PERSONS FOR
SELECTED RURAL AREAS AND FOR METROPOLITAN AREAS OF THE
UNITED STATES.

TYPE OF VICTIMIZATION	RURAL OHIO ¹ (9 Counties) 1975	PIKE COUNTY, ² INDIANA 1978	BENTON COUNTY, ³ INDIANA JUNE, 1977 - MAY, 1978	METROPOLITAN ⁴ UNITED STATES 1976
Burglary -- Forcible Entry (per 1,000 households)	29.2	44.0	36.0	35.8
Household Larceny (per 1,000 households)	N.A. ⁵	115.3	76.6	139.1
Motor Vehicle Theft (per 1,000 households)	4.5	8.2	0.0	21.0
Vandalism (per 1,000 households)	229.5	84.9	135.1	N.A.
Personal Theft (per 1,000 persons)	N.A.	27.4	110.3	108.4
Rape (per 1,000 persons)	2.1	N.A.	2.1	1.0
Robbery (per 1,000 persons)	0.6	0.0	0.0	8.2
Assault	N.A.	N.A.	41.5	28.8

¹Source: G. Howard Phillips, Crime in Rural Ohio. Final Report to the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology The Ohio State University, 1975.

²Source: Joseph F. Donnermeyer, "Criminal Victimization in Pike County, Indiana." National Rural Crime Prevention Center. The Ohio State University, 1981.

³Source: Brent L. Smith and Joseph F. Donnermeyer, "Victimization in Rural and Urban Areas: A Comparative Analysis." Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Burlington, Vermont. August 24, 1979.

⁴Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Victimization in the United States: A Comparison of 1976 and 1977 Findings: A National Crime Survey Report. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978.

⁵N.A. = Not Available

Table 2. The Proportion of Reported Violent and Property Offenses for Urban and Rural Areas, 1960-1979 (FBI Uniform Crime Reports).

Area	Year				
	1960	1965	1970	1975	1979
Urban					
Violent Crime Rate	162.4	234.2	501.2	539.8	598.3
Percent of Total Index	12.4	12.9	14.0	9.2	9.8
Property Crime Rate	1,146.1	1,574.5	3,087.6	5,350.4	5,529.2
Percent of Total Index	87.6	87.1	86.0	90.8	90.2
Rural					
Violent Crime Rate	67.3	81.1	120.0	167.3	187.4
Percent of Total Index	15.9	13.1	12.9	8.4	8.6
Property Crime Rate	355.8	535.7	807.4	1,829.9	1,980.1
Percent of Total Index	84.1	86.9	87.1	91.6	91.4

cost = \$84), one in three caught a customer shoplifting (average cost = \$52), and about one in four farm retail markets experienced a larceny/theft (average cost = \$67).

Public property in rural areas was also found to be a frequent crime target. Research on the cost of vandalism and theft to county road signs in Ohio estimated an annual expense of \$30.88 per mile of road (Donnermeyer et. al., 1980).

Concern for the growing rural crime problem has been expressed by diverse leaders associated with rural life. A spokesman for the American Farm Bureau Federation estimated that crime costs the U.S. farmer in excess of one billion dollars annually (Cheatham, 1979). The California Farm Bureau reported that in 1977, farmers suffered an estimated loss of 30 million dollars from theft alone (Footlick, 1979). The Virginia Rural Electric Cooperative estimated a cost of more than one million dollars a year from theft and vandalism to lines and properties (Jones, 1979).

The level of rural crime is beginning to achieve national recognition. At the 1980 National Governor's Conference, a "Rural Crime Working Paper" was presented by the Governor of Wyoming (Rideout, 1980). The National Crime Prevention Coalition, in cooperation with the Advertising Council and with leadership from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, has occasionally even put a "farmer's cap" on McGruff, the floppy-eared spokesdog for the national advertising campaign against crime.

Factors Influencing the Growth of Rural Crime

How does social change relate to the growth of crime within rural society? The outline of such a paradigm is suggested in a recent article by Cohen and Felson (1979) on social change and the rise in crime. In it, the authors delineate three elements whose "convergence in space and time" is necessary for "direct-contact predatory violations" (i.e., violent

crime) to occur. These three elements include: (1) suitable targets; (2) the absence of guardians capable of preventing the violations (i.e., police or other citizens); and (3) motivated offenders. The authors put forth the argument that the absence of any one of these three elements would be "sufficient" to prevent the crime from occurring (Cohen and Felson, 1979:588-590).

This basic paradigm also may be found albeit, in a less formalized manner, in the thousands of flyers, brochures, and manuals on crime prevention distributed each year by law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. This literature stresses that the protection of person or property (suitable target) against the would-be criminal (motivated offender) requires the reduction of opportunity (guardianship).

Rural society has changed in many different ways. The major thesis of this paper is that rural America has experienced an increase in all three elements: suitable targets, opportunities, and motivated offenders. The discussion below is organized according to this outline, as suggested by Cohen and Felson (1979) and the crime prevention literature of law enforcement officials. However, the second element of "opportunity" will be used in place of the Cohen and Felson element of the level of "guardianship" in order to re-direct the discussion toward property crime, the predominant type occurring in rural areas.

Suitable Targets: There have been several changes in rural society which contribute to the increase in suitable targets.

First, rural areas have experienced the same rise in affluency during the sixties and seventies as American society in general. Rural homes have the same quantities of televisions, stereos, micro-wave ovens and other household appliances and items, all of which are "fenceable," and ~~therefore serve as~~ attractive targets. In part, the increased affluency ~~of rural society is due to the growth~~ of suburbs in open-country areas

adjacent to metropolitan centers. In part, increased affluency is the result of the more general movement of the population back to rural locations (i.e., population turnaround).

Finally, in part greater affluency has occurred because of a shift in the occupational structure of the rural labor force. A smaller proportion is directly involved in farming as a greater share of workers residing in rural areas are employed in manufacturing and service industries. Although these industries may be part of the agricultural complex (i.e., farm implement dealers, farm supply companies, food processing and food distribution industries), its workers are employed on a wage or salaried basis, similar to their urban counterparts. Added to this is the fact that in a large percentage of both rural non-farm and farm households, the woman is also working away from the home (U.S. Bureau of Census, 1978-9).

Beyond the general trend of affluency is the more specific aspect of the decrease in small, economically marginal farms and the increase in large acreage, highly mechanized and capital intensive agricultural enterprises. American agriculture, being the most mechanized of any country, relies heavily on expensive tractors, combines and other farm implements. In addition, pesticides, herbicides, and other farm inputs are equally expensive. Farm equipment and supplies have become suitable targets for theft rings.

Contributing to the attractiveness of farm equipment is the absence of permanent serial numbers which identify specific implements. As a result it is far more difficult to trace prior ownership and make positive identification of farm equipment (no registration required) than it is of the automobile.

Opportunity: Opportunity refers to those factors which facilitate the commission of a crime by an offender. It may be argued that during the sixties and seventies, there has developed in rural areas a structure of opportunity for crime to occur, especially property crime. There are six factors which may be identified as impacting the formation of this opportunity structure.

The first aspect may be defined a pre-condition and relates to the low population density of rural areas relative to urban areas. Low population density is perhaps the most distinctive characteristic of rurality. The relative isolation and privacy of the open-country is also one of the features most desired by persons residing or aspiring to live in a rural environment. However, remoteness and distance between homes increase the opportunity for the commission of larceny and burglary, with a low probability that such activities could be observed by neighbors.

A second factor relates to the improvement in transportation systems, and in particular, the advent of the interstate highway system. Despite the relative isolation afforded by low population density, most rural areas today are easily accessible. The impact of improved transportation has increased opportunity in two ways. It has, first of all, provided the logistical means for professional theft rings to operate over an extensive geographic area. The emergence of this phenomenon was observed nearly 50 years ago by Smith (1933:3-4):

"The new means of transportation have often brought the teeming life of city streets to the open countryside. Depredations upon farm buildings and standing crops are now of frequent occurrence. Roadhouses cater to the passing motorist with one or more forms of commercialized vice, and the city gangster establishes his retreat far outside the regularly patrolled areas. Various types of crime and disorder naturally increase under these circumstances."

Beyond the ability of the criminal element to operate more effectively, improved transportation has spurred the development of recreational and leisure facilities in rural locations. The density of traffic in many rural areas has increased to such an extent that local residents are no longer able to differentiate between neighbors and strangers, and in part this has lessened the cohesiveness of many rural communities.

The third factor related to the formation of a favorable environment of opportunity was discussed above with respect to the growth of suburbs and strip housing in rural areas. Generally, suburban areas experience a higher per capita rate of burglary and larceny than inner-city locations and as more residential developments of this type are located in rural areas, property crime rates will more than likely increase.

The fourth aspect of increased opportunity is related to the mobility patterns of rural residents, the result of which is that the home is far more likely to be vacant. Four types of changes have taken place in rural society which contribute to this trend. The first change is that the consolidation of rural school systems has meant that most rural young people must travel longer distances for their education. Second, in an increasing proportion of rural households, both spouses work away from the home (U.S. Bureau of Census, 1978:9). Third, the workplace itself is more likely to be distant from the place of residence. As already noted, the proportion of the farm population is today less than 15 percent of the total rural population in the United States (U.S. Bureau of Census, 1978:2). The remaining 85 percent of the population is rural non-farm. Members of rural non-farm households work at factories or at offices in cities in towns, or at other rural locations far from home. Fourth, just as improved transportation has allowed greater access to rural areas, rural people have increasingly oriented their lifestyles away from the

local community. This is especially evident in retail shopping patterns where many rural households now travel great distances for retail purchases such as groceries, clothes, and furniture, which used to be purchased at the nearest trade center. It is likewise evident in the leisure time and recreational pursuits of rural people, which today increasingly manifest a non-local orientation.

As a result of these changes in mobility patterns, rural residents are more vulnerable to crime. Smith and Donnermeyer (1979) found that nearly 50 percent of the personal larcenies (without contact) experienced by the rural residents of Benton County occurred in an adjacent metropolitan county. Many of these thefts occurred at the shopping malls and other retail outlets, or at various places of work in the metropolitan area.

The fifth aspect relative to the opportunity for crime to occur in rural areas concerns minimal law enforcement resources available for patrol, investigative, and other police functions. Although crime has increased in rural areas, law enforcement resources have not kept pace. As a result, in a typical rural midwestern county, there is only one or two officers available for patrol duties in a jurisdictional area that covers several hundred square miles, and that may include a like number of miles of county and township road.

The sixth and final aspect of opportunity structure of rural crime is attitudinal in nature. Although rural crime has markedly increased during the sixties and seventies, public perception and awareness of the problem has not, nor have rural residents begun to adopt home and farm security measures to the same degree as their urban cousins. For instance, Phillips (1976:14) found that 40 percent of rural Ohioans seldom or never locked their doors when leaving home, and 60 percent did not lock their automobiles. Two-thirds of the farm operators did not lock

their fuel storage tanks. Similar results were obtained in separate rural crime studies among the farm and non-farm populations in West Virginia (Bean and Lawrence, 1978:5-6), and Missouri (Gallagher et. al., 1980).

Motivated Offenders: The profile of the rural offender is not well known. However, the few sociological studies which have been published indicate that most are single, males less than 25 years old, from the local or a nearby community. In essence, they are "amateurs" or non-career criminals who get involved in petty acts of vandalism and larceny, and occasionally more serious offenses (Polk, 1969, 1980; Phillips, 1976b). These observations are similar to some of the earlier writings on rural crime by Clinard (1942, 1944) who found rural offenders did not manifest the characteristics generally associated with the criminal social type, such as: (A) an early start in criminal behavior; (B) progressive knowledge of criminal techniques and crime in general; (C) the use of crime as the sole means of support; and (D) the development of the self-concept of being criminal.

Although there is evidence that the theft of farm machinery, and in some respects, residential burglary in rural areas, is performed by the "professional" criminal, the vast majority of rural offenders are of a different type. It can be argued that much of the increase in rural crime during the sixties and seventies may be attributed to the entrance of these non-professionals into illegal and deviant behavior.

How does one explain the increased involvement of rural youth? There appears to be two separate, but interrelated dimensions to such an explanation. The first dimension suggests that increased participation is due to lifestyle changes which have affected the social environment of adolescents living in rural areas. The second dimension suggests that

there has occurred a fundamental shift in the primary institutions within rural society which are primarily responsible for socialization functions.

There are many forces which have reduced the cultural and social differences which formerly distinguished rural and urban lifestyles. Paramount among these forces are the impacts of mass media channels of communication. Their importance in the development of adolescent role models, both those in conformity with the dominant adult culture and those deviant to this culture, has long been recognized by criminologists. Glaser (1956), for instance, building upon Sutherland's theory that criminal behavior is learned through "differential association" or interaction with criminally inclined individuals and groups, developed the theory of "differential identification" to account for the acquisition of role models through the more impersonal communication channels of radio, television, movies, and music.

There persist a uniquely rural culture within American society (Ford, 1978; Larson, 1978). Generally speaking, rural people are more traditional and self reliant than persons residing in the city. As such, the decreased gap between rural and urban lifestyles cannot fully explain the increase in motivated offenders. A second dimension also must be examined.

In the past fifty years, and especially during the sixties and seventies. There has occurred a shifting of influence among the primary socializing agencies within rural society. The diffusion of new role models from the urban centers into the countryside would not in itself result in behavioral change toward more diverse and sometimes deviant lifestyles without positive reinforcement from reference groups significant to rural youth (Richards, 1979; Wurschmidt, 1980). A likely source of such reinforcement is the peer group.

The increased influence of peers in reinforcing potentially deviant

normative and behavioral patterns may be understood in part by examining the impact of television as a form of technological change on the rural family. The rapid diffusion of television as a major form of leisure time behavior in the American household (both urban and rural households) during the late forties and into the fifties had an affect well beyond the dissemination of widely divergent value and behavioral models. The effect of television has changed the interactional or lifestyle characteristics of the family at the same time that the nuclear family structure was becoming the predominant familial arrangement in the United States (Glenn, 1979). By 1970, the average viewing time for both adults, adolescents, and children was approximately five hours (Glenn, 1979). This has generally been to the sacrifice of "time shared" in interaction between adults and siblings (Glenn, 1979).

The result of the decreased influence of the family as a socializing agent in rural (as well as urban) society has been an increase in the importance of the peer group. As Richards (1979:484) has pointed out in her examination of vandalistic behavior among middle-class adolescents, this type of deviant behavior may be understood as an "age-status conflict" in which partial "exclusion from the adult status system is thought to lead adolescents to construct alternatives within the peer group." The so-called alternatives generated within the peer setting are often "pseudo-autonomous behavior that is likely to be defined as delinquent" according to the standards of the adult status system (Richards, 1979: 484).

In rural society, there have also occurred two other changes beyond the important impact of television on time shared within the family which contribute to the increased influence of the peer group. The first

change includes an increase in the number of single parent households, and of households in which both parents work. The second change involves a change in the occupational opportunities available to rural youth, primarily in the decrease of agricultural and unskilled jobs. For a vast majority of rural youth, the experience of "growing up on the farm" is no more salient than it is for urban youth.

Crime Prevention in the Rural Environments

Crime prevention, by definition, is a "proactive" strategy (James and Gladman, forthcoming) which seeks to reduce crime risk. Given the nature of the rural crime (property-oriented) and the types of risks which have emerged due to changes in rural society, the opportunity to develop viable and effective crime prevention strategies have never been better.

A basis to delineate the major dimension along which crime prevention strategies may be classified is suggested by the previous discussion of factors, which were divided into three types: targets, opportunity, and offenders. Reducing targets appears as a non-sensical approach to reducing rural crime, since it would be equivalent to advocating a policy of fewer color T.V.'s or a reduction in the number of tractors and combines used by farmers. Given the very likely possibility that rural areas will continue to manifest an increase in suitable targets for crime, the more relevant strategies will be to either reduce the opportunity through target-hardening strategies, or reduce the motivation of young persons to violate the law. These two alternatives provide a continuum of crime prevention strategies; from opportunity-reduction on the one hand, to motivation reduction on the other.

The remainder of this paper will address only the first alternative: opportunity-reduction. Although much can and should be done in the area of ~~motivation~~ reduction, it is with respect to opportunity-reduction that

most crime prevention practitioners in rural areas, and rural citizens more specifically, need information.

Opportunity-Reduction for Rural Environments: Research Potentials

Little is known about the extent, use, and relative effectiveness of crime prevention measures (i.e., target-hardening devices such as lights, locks, and alarms) for property crime victimization. However, the development of victim survey research in the mid 1960's now provides for an in-depth examination of situational variables surrounding criminal incidents (Drapkin and Viano, 1974). Also, there now is evidence that some researchers are becoming more concerned about and interested in studying why and how effective are measures taken by individuals and communities in reducing vulnerability to crime. Newman (1972) and Reppetto (1974) clearly indicate the possibilities of reducing crime through environmental prevention measures. In a recent report from the National Crime Study (U.S. Department of Justice, 1979), it was found that 44 percent of all residential burglaries were classified as "unlawful entry without force." Cohen and Felson (1979: 154) also expressed the need for further research on prevention and control with the following statement:

"(W)e have a meager literature on the measures that individuals take to reduce their vulnerability to crime--measures that sometimes amount to radical reorganization of their lives. All of these are facets of the societal reaction to crime. They are interrelated in ways that we have hardly begun to explore. It is now time to approach, in a serious and systematic way, the interfaces and interaction of all these sectors with one another and with the politically organized criminal justice sector and the study of their joint effects."

The time has come for scholars interested in crime prevention to address, in a systematic fashion, all social phenomena which may be included in some fashion or another under the general heading of crime prevention behavior. As Lauarkas and Lewis (1980:270) suggest: "Public policy regarding crime prevention behaviors by citizens would be

enhanced if it were congruent with an empirically based understanding of the behaviors."

The National Rural Crime Prevention Center is currently conducting two research projects whose goal is to build-up the research base of crime prevention. The first study concerns the adoption of crime prevention measures by farm retail operators (roadside markets and U-pick operations) and their relative effectiveness in reducing crime. The research design is simple and straightforward. First, a series of victimization questions, specifying a 12 month period, are used to determine the occurrence of crime incidents, including vandalism, burglary, robbery, shoplifting, and employee theft. These questions (with the exception of vandalism), as well as detailed follow-up information about specific incidents reported by the respondents, are modeled after the National Crime Study. Second, a series of questions on whether the farm retail market operator had experienced these six crime incidents before the 12 month referent period were asked. Third, a detailed series of questions on the use of specific crime prevention hardwares in the retail operation are utilized, from alarm systems, to watchdogs, to exterior lighting, to identification of equipment. Fourth, the time of adoption of these measures is specified on a dictohomous format of either before or after the 12 month referent period.

This format allows for the direct analysis of patterns of adoption via cluster analytic techniques. More importantly, this format enables the researcher, while statistically controlling for other factors (including prior victimization), to specify the relative impact of specific crime prevention measures (or clusters of measures) on victimization probabilities.

~~Some tentative conclusions~~ have already been reached from this study. ~~By way of illustration it was~~ found that the probability of

burglary is reduced significantly if the farm retail operator has a watchdog on the business premises or in the market buildings. Operations without a watchdog are five times more likely to experience a burglary (Phillips and Donnermeyer, 1980).

The second study is a research project involving 900 rural households in Ohio and utilizes the same format as the farm retail study. However, the number of security measures has been expanded, and a section on use patterns such as locking doors under various conditions (i.e., time of day, short and long-term vacancies) was added. The data is presently being coded and analysis will be forthcoming.

Hopefully studies such as these are in their infancy, and results will raise more questions than answer. As the data base builds up, and research designs are developed which can systematically control for extraneous influences, then the science of crime prevention will be equipped to provide information to policy makers, crime prevention experts, and citizens alike, on the cost-benefit ratios of specific preventative strategies.

Opportunity-Reduction for Rural Environments: Program Potentials

The need for information by rural law enforcement and citizens cannot wait for the research. Crime prevention aids salient to the rural environment are needed now, especially in light of the relatively lax attitude of rural residents toward practicing crime prevention.

The first area where NRCPC is developing programs lies in the area of community organization. Given the lack of adequate law enforcement resources, it will be difficult for many agencies to assign, except on a part-time basis, an officer responsible for crime prevention. It is imperative, therefore, that rural law enforcement be sensitive to the social structure of rural society, and to use the social interactional

patterns of rural people in promoting crime prevention.

To this end, NRCPC has summarized two sets of generalizations relevant to the area of program development in rural crime prevention.

These include:

1. CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL SOCIETY

----Rural people generally exhibit a greater sense of neighborliness than is true in the urban setting.

----Leadership positions in rural communities are more likely to be occupied by part-time leaders.

----Rural areas have a strong network of organizations and agencies, such as Farm Bureau Councils and other farmer organizations, Kiwanis, Rotary, and other civic organizations, as well as, Extension Homemaker Clubs, and other Cooperative Extension Service programs.

----In rural areas, the church continues to play a strong role.

----In rural areas, law enforcement personnel are known by a greater proportion of the people.

----There are two types of rural environments, open-country and small town.

----Rural people, both those who reside in small towns and those living in an open-country setting, are more likely to know their neighbors than their urban counterparts.

----There is a greater opportunity for involvement in civic organizations in the rural small town environment than in the open-country.

----In the open-country, organizational participation is more limited to extension and farm organizations, and to the church.

----Private transportation is a more essential element in rural living, including such activities as visiting, shopping, and church.

2. APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS

----Program material should be direct and as brief as possible.

----Program material should recognize that there are two types of rural environments: small town and the open-country. Specific prevention programs may need to be modified in order to be effective within each of these rural environments.

----Programs for a rural audience should put greater stress on self-reliance, especially in the open-country environment.

----Successful programs, especially in rural areas, require that the leadership and then the people define the problem as their own.

----To this end, rural-oriented programs should directly utilize the network of local leaders, both elected officials and influentials, and the network of local clubs and organizations.

A second area of program development, and in which NRCPC is pursuing the philosophy stated above, is in the development of its "Home and Farm Security" series. Table 3 provides an outline and status report of the various topics included (or to be included) in the series. As the titles suggest, each brochure in the series is: (1) direct and brief; (2) salient to rural people; and (3) sensitive toward the two types of rural environments outlined above.

A copy of NRCPC 26 on door and lock security is presented in Appendix A. By doing a brief, direct and in-depth presentation of a specific aspect of home security, the reader (i.e., rural citizen) will be better equipped to make decisions regarding security.

Table 3. Home and Farm Security Series:
Topic Areas and Status Up-Date

NRCPC 21	Farm Security - Machinery and Equipment
NRCPC 22	Farm Security - Livestock
NRCPC 23	TIMBERTHEFT* A Serious Problem. . . How You Can Help
NRCPC 24	Home and Farm Security - Being a Good Witness
NRCPC 25	Home and Farm Security - Fuel Tank Security
NRCPC 26	Door Security and Locks
NRCPC 27	Securing Your Windows
NRCPC 28	What To Do When Going Away for a Short Time
NRCPC 29	What To Do When Going Away Overnight or Longer

Available after May 1, 1981

In Development

Security for Sliding-Glass and Other Problem Doors - Outline form
Auxillary Locks for Your Doors - Outline form
Self-Analysis for Home Security - rough draft form
Burglary Alarm System - Permission from Consumer Reports
Good Neighbor Programs for crime Prevention - Outline form

Future Publications

Night Lighting for the Home and Farm
Self Analysis for Farm Security
Padlocks for Farm Security
Security Behavior When Shopping etc.
What To Do About Trespassing
Mailbox Security - Front Yard Vandalism
Arson - Problem and Protection Strategies
Personal Protection For Rural Women
How to Handle Telephone Calls
Crop Security - From Field to Bin
Farm Fraud
Farm Architecture - New Buildings/Location
Cost of Hardware Stems
~~Watching~~ - Security in a Rural Environment
~~Security for the~~ Farm Retailer

SUMMARY

Crime is no longer an urban problem--it has come of age in the hinterlands. The reasons are many and complex. One important set of causes concerns the increase of opportunity for property crime.

This paper was an attempt to examine the nature of the rural crime problem and the causes of its emergence in order to develop the background necessary for introducing a strategy by which research (inparticular, sociological research) can be made relevant to the development of crime prevention programs.

Crime prevention is an area which involves the synthesis of technical information in a format useable by people. Research in crime prevention, as illustrated in this paper by the example of rural crime, has an opportunity to be directly relevant to programming efforts. In turn, the process of program development will suggest innovative modifications to research design formats and analysis procedures. The social science of crime prevention, as the introductory remarks to the paper suggested, will then represent a systematic merger of research and practice.

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HOME AND FARM SECURITY

In Cooperation With:

Basic Door and Lock Security*

The Problem

A generation or two ago, most rural people gave little thought or attention to the idea of home security. The reason - there was little need. Crime, especially burglary, was a topic usually read about in the newspaper and associated almost exclusively with the big city.

Today the situation has changed. Cities, suburbs and rural areas alike are experiencing increases in crime, including burglaries. These burglaries are usually committed by amateurs and primarily youth. In almost every instance, the potential burglar or thief wants to gain entry into your house or apartment as quickly and quietly as possible. He wants to avoid contact with the resident and risk turning a property crime into a personal injury crime. And of course, the last thing the burglar wants is to be caught. The goal for you then is to make your place of residence more secure by frustrating and prolonging the burglar's attempted entry. In working toward this goal, you need to look at and upgrade your total home security. This publication addresses one of the most important aspects of home security - doors and door locks.

Door Construction

The first thing you should consider is the construction of the door itself. The vulnerability of a door (as opposed to its frame, hinges, locks, and other accessory parts) is usually defined in terms of its penetrability - that is, how easy or how long it takes to forcibly break through the door.

Basically there are three styles or types of doors: flush wood; stile-and-rail; and metal. In the case of the flush wood style, there are two types: hollow core and solid core. A hollow core door is made up of two thin strips or sheets of plywood glued to a frame. This type of door can easily be kicked in or broken apart. It is, however, increasingly being used as an exterior door because of its inexpensive cost.

To reinforce the hollow core door, screw a piece of sheet metal at least .016 inches thick to the inside of the door. The sheet metal should be slightly smaller than the door with screw placements no more than six inches apart. Clear sheets made of tough plastics are now available and may be used in the same way as the sheet metal.

Once installed you can paint the door to match the woodwork. You also should install a wide-angle doorviewer or peephole to permit your looking outside without opening the door.

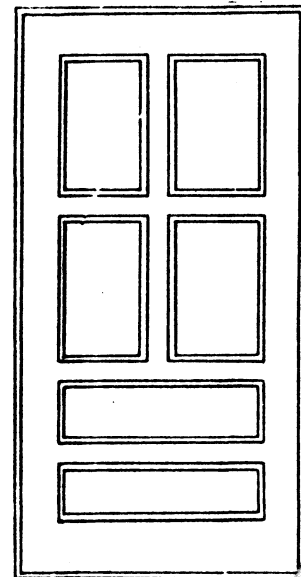
*Prepared by Gregory R. Passewitz, Area Extension Agent, Community and Natural Resource Development, Ohio Cooperative Extension Service, and edited by the staff of NRCPC.

Many homes will have a hollow core door leading to an attached garage, or at the top of the stairs leading down to the basement. These should also be replaced or reinforced because a burglar could gain entrance into your home by breaking in through the garage or through the cellar doors.

If you have a closet door which is solid and is roughly the same dimensions, use it to replace the hollow core door. In turn the hollow core door can be re-installed where the closet door entrance used to be. Remember solid core doors have a substantial security advantage over the hollow core door. Because of the solid construction, they provide good strength across the entire width of the door.

Stile-and-rail doors vary in their security characteristics (Figure 1). Thickness of panels, type of wood, and the quality or snugness of fit to the frame are important factors. Some panel and louver designs provide more security than others. For example, wood or aluminum stormdoors with removable or adjustable sashes and/or screens, offer little or no security. To upgrade a stile-and-rail door, attach a piece of sheet metal or a tough sheet plastic to the inside, following the same procedures as discussed above for the hollow core door.

Figure 1.
Stile-and-
Rail Door



Well constructed metal doors are among the most effective doors to prevent break-ins. Most flush metal doors come with metal frames. This alone provides a substantial increase in security. Metal doors, if insulated, also reduce heat loss during winter, but are often more expensive and less stylish.

DOOR FRAMES

A strong door and lock system will be of little value if the door frame is weak. The door frame consists of two parts: (1) the jambs, which are the two vertical sides of the frame; and (2) the header, which is the horizontal or top part that connects the two vertical jambs. By prying at a loose fitting or rotten door jamb, a burglar can open the door without touching the lock. In most new homes and apartments, the frames are made of 3/4 inch pine or fir which split easily. The door frame is installed into a rough opening in the wall. The frame is then levelled (i.e., shimmed) with pieces of wood which create gaps between the door frame and the supporting wall studs. Door molding is then nailed in place. This type of construction can cause security problems because the burglar can literally pry the door from the frame.

One way to remedy the situation is to remove the molding surrounding the door and insert wood filler pieces wherever there are gaps between the door frame and the studs on all sides. By doing this you have substantially increased the strength of your door frame. However, this procedure is time consuming and is not practical for most people.

Perhaps a more practical and more easily accomplished solution is to strengthen the strike plate. The strike plate is the metal plate which is installed into the door jamb (see Figure 2 on next page). The bolt from the door lock or latch is thrown into the strike plate. The strike plate is often mounted with short wood screws which do not penetrate beyond the 3/4 inch door frame. Remove these screws and add three inch wood screws which will penetrate beyond the frame, and into the wall studs. Also, a heavy duty strike plate should be installed in place of the light duty type which come with most door frames. These protective strike plates (jimmy plates) can be installed with little effort and cost.

In addition, all inward swinging doors should have doorstops. A doorstop is part of the jamb and covers the space between the jamb and the door on the outside. It

keeps the door from swinging to the outside and reduces the amount of outside air which seeps into the house. Good doorstops prevent a burglar from inserting a hacksaw blade between the door and the jamb and thereby sawing off the lock bolt or door hinges. Many doorstops are attached to the jamb with small finishing nails. These can be easily pryed off from the outside. To better secure the doorstop, use a permanent bond wood glue.

Hinges

If your door swings outward, then your hinges will be on the outside. All a burglar has to do is remove the hinge pins to gain entry into your house. This situation can be remedied by remounting the doors so they swing inward rather than outward, or by replacing the hinges with "fixed pin" or "hingeless" hinges. These may be purchased at most hardware stores.

If you find replacement too costly, install one or two wood or metal dowels into the edge of the door on the hinge side (Figure 3). The dowel should be inserted approximately 1-1/2 inches deep and permanently attached. The remaining portion of the dowel projects into the door frame when the door is shut. The dowel hole in the door jamb should be 1-1/2 inches deep. Even if the hinge pins are removed from the outside, the dowel(s) will prevent the door from being removed.

In addition, check the screws which hold your hinges. Make certain they are secure.

Windowed Doors

Outside entry doors with windows are another home security problem. If door windows or side light windows are within 40 inches of the door lock, a burglar can quietly cut the glass, reach in, and unlock your door. To prevent this type of entry, you may want to do one of the following: (1) replace the door with a solid wood or metal door; (2) install a heavy duty grill across the glass; (3) replace the glass with an unbreakable plastic window, or (4) install a double keyed deadbolt lock (see discussion below).

Primary Door Locks

After you have secured your door, its frame and hardware, you should concentrate on door locks. Since a great majority of home burglaries are committed by amateurs, the locks you select should be able to withstand forced entry. Very few burglaries are accomplished through lock picking or by using a master key.

The most common type of lock sold today is the cylindrical or key-in-knob lock (Figure 4). These are locks with the keyhole in the knob. From a security standpoint, they are the least desirable. This type of lock can often be opened by sliding a credit card between the bolt and the frame. Even with a deadlock plunger, you are not afforded much security (see Figure 5 on next page). The cylinder of the lock is located in the knob. There is virtually no way of protecting the cylinder from being removed with minimal force. With a pair of vice grips and a screwdriver, a burglar can

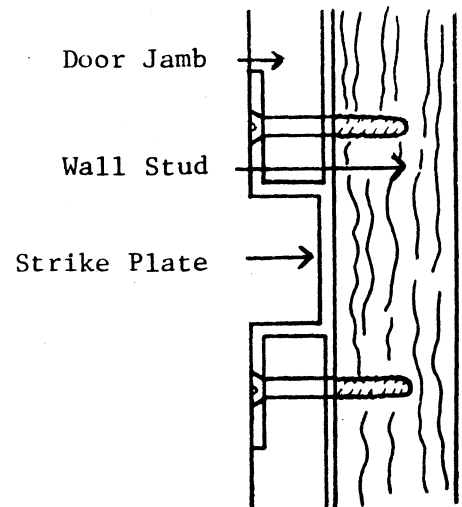


Figure 2. Sideview of Strike Plate

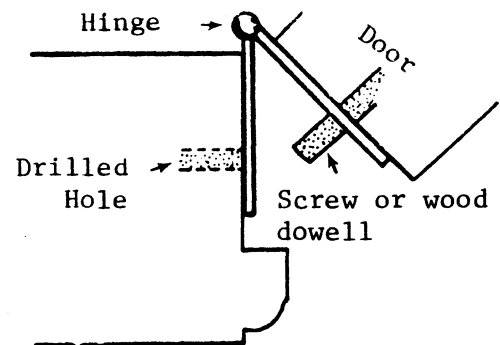


Figure 3. Securing Doors With Outside Hinges

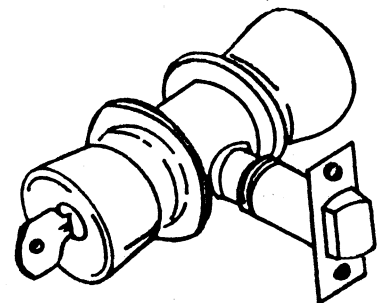


Figure 4. Key-In-Knob Lock

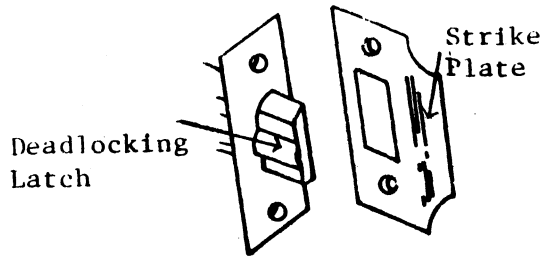
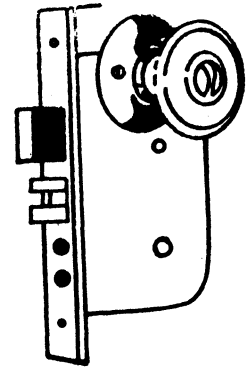


Figure 5. Key-In-Knob With A Deadlocking Latch or Plunger

Figure 6. Mortise Lock



quickly remove the cylinder and gain entry into your home. To increase your security, you can replace the key-in-knob lock with a more durable deadbolt type or add an auxiliary lock to the door.

Another common type of lock is the mortise lock. The mortise lock sets in a rectangular cut on the outer edge of the edge of the door (Figure 6). It has a spring latch which can be locked by depressing the buttons on the door edge. You can set the latch so that it locks when you close the door. The best quality mortise locks have bolts and latches that extend more than 1 1/2 inches into the doorframe.

Although mortise locks provide better security than key-in-knob types, they do have some drawbacks. The spring latch on most mortise locks is beveled and not intended to keep the door securely locked. Keeping the door securely locked is the bolt's job. Since it takes a key to open the latch from the outside, you may mistakenly believe that your home is secure when you close the door. Actually, it is not. A mortise lock with a latch not guarded by a bolt can be easily jimmied. To be secure, mortise types must be locked with the bolt, not with the latch alone. A typical mortise lock is bolt locked from the outside only when you turn the key, never when the door is simply closed. From the inside, the bolt is locked only when you throw the thumb turn.

A third type of door lock is the deadbolt lock. There are two types of deadbolt locks: the single and double cylinder. A single cylinder deadbolt is operated by a key which opens and closes the deadbolt from the outside. (Figure 7). A thumb turn operates the bolt from the inside. A double cylinder deadbolt must be operated with a key from both the inside and outside. This type of deadbolt offers increased security for those doors which have windows close to the lock. This prohibits the burglar from breaking the glass, reaching in and throwing the thumb turn. A potential hazard, however, with the double cylinder lock is that someone could be locked in the house in the event of an emergency (e.g., a fire).

Good locks should have a 1 1/2 inch throw in the bolt and offer features such as case hardened steel construction, and a cylinder guard or cover on the exterior position of the lock. This cover turns independently of the rest of the lock when being twisted or pried.

When shopping for a lock, money is a factor. There is no need to buy a more expensive lock than you actually need. However, you should spend what it takes to get the best lock for your particular situation.

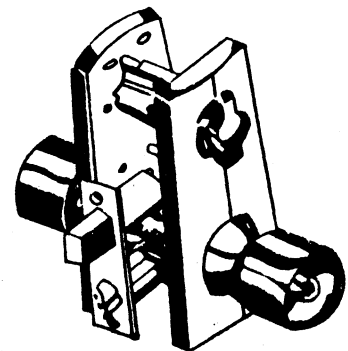


Figure 7. Single Cylinder Deadbolt Lock

For Further Assistance

Contact a crime prevention officer in your local Sheriff or police department. If you have questions about what hardware to install or how to make existing hardware more secure, consult with your local law enforcement agency or hardware store salesman.

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